

HOUSE BILL NO. 264

INTRODUCED BY D. LEWIS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZING AND PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF MONTANA CITIZENS TO HARVEST WILD FISH AND WILD GAME ANIMALS AND REQUIRING THE STATE TO MANAGE FISH AND WILDLIFE TO PRESERVE OPPORTUNITIES TO HARVEST WILD FISH AND WILD GAME ANIMALS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Article IX of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended by adding a new section 6 that reads:

Section 6. Preservation of harvest heritage. (1) The harvest of wild fish and wild game animals is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state. The heritage does not create a right of trespass and is subject to regulation by law.

(2) The state shall manage fish and wildlife to preserve opportunities for the harvest of wild fish and wild game animals by the citizens of the state.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Submission to electorate.** This amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2002 by printing on the ballot the full title of this act and the following:

[] FOR recognizing and preserving the heritage of Montanans to harvest wild fish and wild game animals as provided by law.

[] AGAINST recognizing and preserving the heritage of Montanans to harvest wild fish and wild game animals as provided by law.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on approval by the electorate.

- END -